

NO. 23

## TO OPEN CITY'S LOVELY SUBURBS

### URGENT NEED OF SUBURBAN LINE

#### Passage of Electric By-law Likely to Solve a Question Pressing for Solution.

If there is one thing above another upon which Victorians are united it is in the opinion that next to an ample supply of good water, the greatest boon which could possibly be conferred upon the city would be the opening up of the beautiful districts contiguous to Victoria by some quick and frequent means of communication.

It was this consuming desire which inspired Amor De Cosmos, in his plans for a railway system from this city via the Saanich peninsula and the lower Fraser, and which held the people to his support in spite of peculiarities which alienated some of his friends.

The same desire made possible the construction and subsidizing of the V. & S. railway at a time when the possibilities of the electric operation of railway systems had not been reached. It made possible, too, subsequent arrangements with the same road and the installation of car ferries to the Malinland.

For some time it has been recognized that in the light of modern developments the solution of the situation lay in the construction and operation of electric roads through Saanich, Metchoin and Sooke, and predictions have from time to time been made that within a very short time the trolley would be into Sidney and Colwood.

Why has this never been accomplished?

For the simple reason that the B. C. Electric Railway Co. had scarcely sufficient power to operate its light and power systems in this city and to haul its cars, without attempting to increase its mileage. Within a year a steam plant has been installed which has added to the company's facilities sufficiently to extend a few miles in the city but without equipping it for extensions beyond city limits.

It has been a well known fact that for some time the B. C. Electric Co. have contemplated invading the suburban districts, but have been prevented by the facts mentioned.

It is largely on this account that the Times feels the by-law relating to Jordan river power should pass. Fifty thousand acres of the finest fruit land in the world (this on the authority of Thomas Cunningham, fruit inspector), lie in the immediate neighborhood of Victoria. On the basis of five acres to a family, and five members in each family, the district mentioned is capable of supporting fifty thousand people. What this means to Victoria may be imagined. But with the advent of electric roads, rural free delivery, electric light and power in other sections of the west, these districts will fill with little less rapidly than in the past, unless the boon of quick and frequent transportation is afforded. If a man can get ten acres on the Fraser served by tram cars, and with electric power and light, he will take it in preference to the better situated land of Saanich or Happy Valley with primitive means of communication, and where he must use coal oil for illuminating and gasoline for power.

The installation of the Jordan river power will solve the situation. It will give the B. C. Electric Co. facilities to extend to all these points, they agreeing to generate ten thousand horsepower, four times what they have at present. Having the power they are going to use it, and its use will obviously be in ways which should give an enormous impetus to settlement in the suburbs of Victoria as well as in the city itself.

The concessions sought from the city being largely negative in character, and largely in the nature of agreeing not to do something which we are very unlikely to ever attempt, there should be no difference of opinion as to what the duty of the electors is in the vote shortly to be taken.

**GRAND TENDER LOWEST**